

West Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Date: January 20, 2026

Location: Virtual (Zoom)

To access any materials referenced in these meeting minutes, please contact info@wmswcd.org with the subject line "Request for board meeting materials".

1. Call to Order & Introductions

Chair Preeg Riggsby called the meeting to order at 6pm and confirmed a quorum. Introductions were made for the record.

Board Members Present: Oliver, Sowder, DeFuria, Looney, Preeg Riggsby, Hamer

Staff Present: Jogerst, Scipioni, Clarenbach

Guests Present: Swanson

2. Approval of Minutes

The Board reviewed the minutes from the December 16, 2025 Board Meeting.ⁱ

Motion: To approve the December 16, 2025 meeting minutes as presented.

Vote: Approved by Oliver, Sowder, DeFuria, Looney, Preeg Riggsby, and Hamer.

3. Welcome and Introduction of Budget and Fiscal Manager

Jogerst introduced the District's new Budget and Fiscal Manager, Clarenbach, noting that he joined the District on December 29 and has been working closely with NOW CFO as part of his onboarding. Clarenbach introduced himself as a longtime Oregonian who recently returned to the state after approximately 30 years in Montana and shared that his background includes both for-profit and nonprofit work, including owning and operating a cidery and advising nonprofits on financial management. He expressed enthusiasm for supporting the District's work and strengthening the financial foundations that support its programs.

4. Treasurer's Report and Financial Reviewⁱⁱ

The Treasurer's Report was presented and reviewed, with discussion of year-to-date financial performance showing the District approximately \$119,000 ahead of the anticipated net fund change compared to the adopted budget. Financials were reviewed on a modified cash basis, with revenues recorded when received rather than earned, and it was noted that several grants have been levied but not yet received due to processing and portal issues. Property tax revenues from Multnomah and Washington counties were tracking close to or slightly above expectations, interest income has exceeded projections despite recent rate declines, and overall expenditures remain within acceptable variance, with higher operating costs due to recruitment and turnover offset by lower-than-expected personnel expenses in operations and finance. Cash flow management practices were reviewed, including maintaining lower balances in the

operating account while maximizing returns through the Local Government Investment Pool via regular transfers. Board members discussed the value of graphical summaries and multi-year context, while also acknowledging the staff time involved in preparing increasingly detailed financial materials. No action was taken.

Next steps

- Treasurer’s Report to be filed with the meeting record.
- Board and staff to revisit the format and level of detail in financial reporting as part of a broader discussion about Board packet content.

5. Budget Calendar Revisionⁱⁱⁱ

The Board reviewed a revised budget calendar after it was noted that the previously adopted version did not align Budget Committee meeting dates with the regular Board meeting schedule. Preeg Riggsby explained that the District’s standard practice is to hold the first Budget Committee meeting during a regularly scheduled Board meeting, with a second meeting held the following week if needed, and that the revised calendar corrects the previously listed dates to reflect this established cadence and ensure compliance with public meeting requirements and reporting to TSCC.

Motion: To approve the revised budget calendar.

Vote: Approved by Oliver, Preeg Riggsby, Sowder, DeFuria, Looney, and Hamer.

6. Tualatin Mountain Forest Presentation

Swanson presented an overview of Oregon State University’s (OSU) Research Forest System and an update on the 3,100-acre Tualatin Mountain Forest, conveyed to OSU in summer 2025 through the Forest Legacy Program with additional funding from Metro and support from the Trust for Public Land. Swanson described the Research Forest System’s mission of education, research, extension, demonstration, recreation, and stewardship and noted opportunities to collaborate with the District on watershed health, habitat, and restoration.

Swanson reviewed current forest conditions shaped by historic industrial management and outlined planned management approaches, including development of an interim three-year plan and a state forester approved ten-year multi resource management plan, variable density thinning, limited regeneration harvest with retention, riparian restoration, infrastructure improvements to support hydrology and fish passage, and coordination with recreation partners. Longer term goals discussed included oak woodland restoration, tribal collaboration and access opportunities, climate resilience, and a target of opening the property to general public access in 2027.

Next steps

- Staff to follow up with Swanson regarding potential collaboration areas.
- Staff to share future draft management plans with the Board when available.

7. Partner Grants Program Update (Ripple Grant)

Scipioni presented an update on the District’s community grants work, noting that the former Partner Grant Program has been restructured as the Ripple Grant for FY 2026–27 following updates to program criteria, review processes, and administration. The Ripple Grant will fund community-based projects aligned with the District’s mission, with emphasis on priority invasive species, priority habitats, and equitable outcomes through engagement of historically underserved communities. Eligible applicants include nonprofits, schools and educational institutions, tribal governments, Indigenous community groups, and local government agencies, with fiscal sponsorship allowed; applicants must be in good standing on prior reporting. The grant includes a \$100,000 funding pool, awards ranging from \$10,000 to \$25,000 with up to 15% administrative costs, and one application per organization per fiscal year. Applications will be reviewed by an all-volunteer external committee that includes a Board representative, with staff providing eligibility screening and applicant support. The grant launched January 15, outreach is underway, and applications are due February 27; staff also clarified that long term partner funding is now managed through a separate program, and that elements such as indirect cost limits and project timelines may be refined in future cycles based on lessons learned.

Next steps

- Staff to continue outreach and promotion of the Ripple Grant.
- Board members to share the opportunity through their networks.
- Staff to report back on application volume and lessons learned in a future meeting.

8. District Manager Report

Jogerst provided a brief update and requested Board input on upcoming meeting logistics. She proposed holding the March work plan presentations virtually to support scheduling and ongoing transitions, and shifting the in-person meeting to April to align with the Budget Committee meeting. Board members expressed support for the change, noting the value of hosting Budget Committee meetings in person to welcome community members.

Jogerst also previewed a future discussion about the format and usefulness of monthly staff reports^{iv}, asking whether the current approach remains effective or could be streamlined to reduce duplication while maintaining transparency and accountability. Board members shared initial feedback and agreed to revisit the topic.

Next steps

- Staff to schedule March work plan presentations as a virtual meeting and plan for an in-person Budget Committee meeting in April.
- Board and staff to revisit the staff report format at a future meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 PM following completion of the agenda.^v

ⁱ West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District (WMSWCD, the District) Board Meeting Minutes
12/16/2025, page 2

ⁱⁱ Financial Statements For period ending 31 December 2025, starting page 7

ⁱⁱⁱ WMSWCD Board of Directors Meeting January 20, 2026 Acceptance of Revised Budget Calendar, starting page 18

^{iv} Staff Reports, Starting page 20

^v Board Meeting Agenda, Starting page 1